

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of H. Res. 212.

MISSION VIEJO, CA,
August 19, 1998.

Congressman RON PACKARD,
Fairfax, VA.

DEAR BROTHER PACKARD: I write to you first as your role of a father and a friend of my family's and second, as a Congressman of the United States. I write in hopes of your understanding and support in a very real and tragic problem facing the youth in our country.

My parents are Val and Diane Mortensen from Carlsbad. I am their second daughter, Lisa, and I grew up with many of your children as well as your nieces and nephews in Carlsbad, California State.

Recently, our family suffered an incredibly painful loss. Our oldest child, Justin, three weeks before his sixteenth birthday, went to a park near our home and shot himself in the head. He suffered brain death shortly afterward, and we lost him that night, May 4, 1998.

Justin was a sweet natured, polite, kind-hearted, and well liked youth, who lived with clinical depression and ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). Despite several years of medical and psychological treatments and antidepressant medications, it seemed the pain won out, and Justin decided to take his own life; I'm sure in hopes of relief.

As a parent you can imagine the pain, guilt, questions, and terrible sense of loss we are living with day to day. It is an agonizing and heart-breaking experience that will affect the rest of our lives. Almost more terrible than the act itself, is the extreme inner pain and loneliness that I felt in the moments preceding his death. As the Savior, he was alone in his extreme pain, and I, the parent could not staunch it. It is so incredibly sad!

Almost immediately after Justin's death I knew in my heart of hearts that I would somehow and in some way devote my time to increase awareness of depression and also teenage suicide. This is my first attempt to help. This is how you can help.

There is an existing foundation called the Light For Life Foundation of America, based in Westminster, Colorado. They have a Yellow Ribbon program that has been effective in the prevention and awareness of suicide.

Youth suicide is the "fastest growing killer of youth today" according to federal officials and we need your interest and support to help stop this epidemic. Statistics show that 95% of all suicides are preventable with proper prevention and awareness. Even though the rates are increasing every year, there are programs that are working and one of the most effective is the Yellow Ribbon Program of the Light For Life Foundation of America.

Started in September 1994 with the suicide of 17-year-old Michael Emme, the program has spread across all 50 states and many foreign countries and is already credited officially with SAVING MORE THAN 1,000 LIVES as of September 1997, and the numbers are growing. Youth and adults all over this country are starting the programs in their schools, churches, and communities and are helping to form a network of caring, willing people who realize that not only does it take a "village to raise a child, but it takes a village to SAVE a child" and they are saving precious lives.

This letter is a request for recognition of a "Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week" to be designated on 20-26 September, 1998.

Will you designate, or ask your agency, to proclaim this week officially and to contact the Light For Life Foundation of America

for more information on how you personally and officially can help save lives? This proclamation is being designated throughout the United States and Canada already. Never before has the opportunity to do something so simple been so effective. Simply knowing that it is okay to ask for help and that people are willing to listen has been credited with many saved lives.

Brother Packard, thank you for your precious time—in reading this letter and hopefully in supporting my request for an official suicide prevention week in your jurisdiction.

Enclosed please find the Yellow Ribbon Card that was made in Justin's memory, and of which 450+ were distributed at his memorial service. Also, a recent photograph of Justin and a small verse I wrote about him the day following his death.

Please contact the Light For Life Foundation of America and tell them, of your intent to proclaim September 20-26, 1998 "Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week". (See addresses below.)

Further, if you need to speak with me, or if I can in some way be of support to any family in a similar situation, please call me at (949) 472-8363.

How wonderful to possess the truth of the gospel in these Latter-days and enjoy the knowledge and blessings of eternal families. To know that Justin is in the arms of our Savior's love is the sustaining hope that lifts our hearts.

Most Sincerely,

LISA M. DOVE.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for House Resolution 212.

This issue is important to every family with children and to every family that has suffered the loss of a loved one through suicide.

This resolution recognizes that suicide is a national problem. And it encourages that the nation undertake suicide prevention efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that 750,000 people attempt suicide each year. These attempts are traumatic not only for the individual but also for family and friends who surround him or her.

Just as tragic, more than 31,000 lives annually are lost to suicide. It may be hard to believe, but that is even more than homicide.

In fact, suicide is the ninth leading cause of all death in the U.S. It is the third leading cause of death for young people. And it is on the rise.

I hope that this resolution will help focus attention on this tragedy—and will lead to action in our homes and our communities to save young and old lives alike from suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 212.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4567

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 4567, as my name was placed on this legislation without my knowledge or consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Sununu). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan? There was no objection.

ESTABLISHING DESIGNATIONS FOR UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE BUILDINGS

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4052) to establish designations for United States Postal Service buildings located in Coconut Grove, Opa Locka, Carol City, and Miami, Florida, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4052

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WILLIAM R. "BILLY" ROLLE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 3191 Grand Avenue in Coconut Grove, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "William R. 'Billy' Rolle Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "William R. 'Billy' Rolle Post Office Building".

SEC. 2. HELEN MILLER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 550 Fisherman Street in Opa Locka, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Helen Miller Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Helen Miller Post Office Building".

SEC. 3. ESSIE SILVA POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 18690 N.W. 37th Avenue in Carol City, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Essie Silva Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Essie Silva Post Office Building".

SEC. 4. ATHALIE RANGE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 500 North West 2d Avenue in Miami, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Athalie Range Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Athalie Range Post Office Building".

SEC. 5. GARTH REEVES, SR. POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States Postal Service building located at 995 North West 119th Street in Miami, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Garth Reeves, Sr. Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Garth Reeves, Sr. Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from